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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

8 February 1968

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Rumanian Party Ideologue Confers with Polish Party Official

Following his arrival in Warsaw on 6 February, Paul Niculescu-Mizil, leading ideologue of the Rumanian party, conferred with Polish party Politburo member, Zenon Kliszko, on "problems of the international working class movement and other matters of interest to the two parties."

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The talks, which "passed in an atmosphere of sincerity and friendship" according to Polish news media, were limited to one day.

COMMENT: Niculescu-Mizil's trip to Warsaw was almost certainly related to outlining Rumania's position on the upcoming Budapest consultative conference of Communist parties opening on 26 February. The trip is also the latest move in a series of contacts by the Rumanians to make their views known. It appears likely that Bucharest will send a delegation to the Budapest session, but they are expected to refrain from making their final decision known until near the eve of the meeting.

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Niculescu-Mizil's trip to Warsaw may also reflect the effort by the Poles to ensure that both Eastern and Western European Communist parties attend the Budapest conference. [redacted]

Gomulka Sizes Up Dubcek

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Polish party boss Gomulka and his second in command, politburo member Zenon Kliszko, paid a one-day visit to Ostrava on 7 February, where they held "cordial, friendly" talks with new Czechoslovak party leader Alexander Dubcek and Kliszko's counterpart, Vladimir Koucky.

A Warsaw radio announcement of the meeting said that both sides informed each other on "problems of socialist construction in their countries," discussed the "direction" of future bilateral relations, dealt with current problems of the international Communist movement, and "exchanged" views on the forthcoming Budapest meeting. "Full unanimity" was reached on "all questions discussed." [redacted] 25X1

COMMENT: Like Hungary's Kadar, who had a similar one-day meeting with Dubcek in Komarno, Slovakia on 4 February, Gomulka probably wished to size up personally the new boy on the block. Although the Czech regime crisis was not widely publicized in Poland, it is known to have been watched closely by the Polish party, whose malaise parallels in many ways the early situation in Czechoslovakia which eventually led to Novotny's ouster from party leadership. The Poles are also clearly concerned over the potential impact of more independent Czech foreign policy vis-a-vis Bonn and elsewhere. [redacted] 25X1

Rumanian Parliament Slated to Hold "Extraordinary" Session on 15 February

An "extraordinary" session of the Rumanian parliament will be convoked on 15 February, according to a 7 February decree of the Council of State signed by party and state chief Ceausescu. The decree did not list any agenda for parliament. [redacted] 25X1

COMMENT: Parliament probably will be asked to pass legislation confirming the new administrative-territorial organization of Rumania which was proposed by the party and state commission on 14 January. The session may also approve the long-awaited new civil, labor, penal, and family codes. Ceausescu referred to the need for such revised codes last December and indicated that the drafts were nearly complete then.

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Rumors of a Pro-Soviet Faction in Albania

"Lively" rumors in East Germany allude to the existence of a fairly significant pro-Moscow faction in Albania, [redacted] The intention of this group is allegedly the supplanting of the present regime with a Soviet oriented government. [redacted]

[redacted]

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COMMENT: In the last year there have been several reports alluding to an undercurrent of dissatisfaction in Albania--including speculation on differences between party First Secretary Enver Hoxha and Premier Mehmet Shehu. While there is no information to confirm this latest report, it is generally accepted that numerous Albanians are unhappy with their current conditions and leaders. To date however, the extent of this dissatisfaction remains unknown, and evidence is lacking to identify the individuals or persons retaining their pro-Soviet orientation.

East German Ballyhoo for the New Constitution

The regime is pulling out all stops in a massive effort to promote the new draft constitution. Ulbricht kicked things off with a long, dull oration on 1 February when the draft was introduced. Most of the Politburo members will speak at large rallies throughout the GDR next week.

[redacted]

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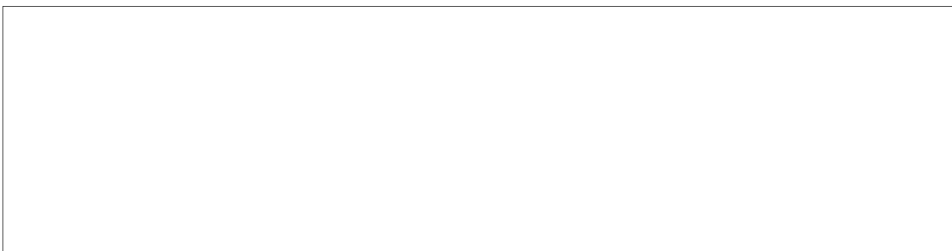
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COMMENT: The new draft constitution is rather uninspiring, but if presented in the proper light may convince some people that the regime intends to relax some of the stringency governing "civil liberties" in the GDR. The rallies, which are to be covered by radio and television, may take on the appearance of spontaneous acceptance of the new document by the East German populace and probably is intended to impress West Germans as much as doubting East Germans.



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